



Press Release

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Idaho Sugarbeet Production Expected to be the Lowest Since 1984

Based on conditions as of August 1, sugarbeet production is expected to total 3.48 million tons from 117,000 harvested acres, down 40 percent from a year ago and the lowest production in Idaho since 1984, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Expected harvested acreage for sugarbeets is at the lowest level since 1977. Sugarbeet yield of 29.7 tons per acre is down from last year's record high 34.4 tons per acre. Because of acreage increases, winter and spring wheat production in Idaho is expected to be up from 2007. Idaho's winter wheat yield of 73.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month and last year. Producers expect to harvest 810,000 acres of winter wheat with a total production of 59.1 million bushels, up 14 percent from last year. Idaho's spring wheat yield is forecast at 65.0 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels per acre from the July 1 forecast, and down 3 bushels per acre from 2007. Production of 33.8 million bushels from 520,000 harvested acres is up 10 percent from last year. Barley production is forecast at 41.6 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's 44.0 million bushels. Harvested acreage, at 520,000, is 30,000 acres less than last year. The expected yield of 80.0 bushels per acre is up 2 bushels an acre from last month and equal to last year's yield. Oat yield is forecast at 75 bushels an acre, down 2 bushels from last month, but up 14 bushels from last year. Oat production from 20,000 harvested acres is expected to total 1.5 million bushels, up 23 percent from a year ago. Dry bean production is expected to total 1.52 million cwt from 78,000 harvested acres, down 5 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 1,950 pounds per acre (clean basis), up 150 pounds from last year. Chickpeas, grown primarily in North Idaho, are included in the dry bean estimates. This year's chickpea planted acreage accounts for 38 percent of Idaho's dry beans, more than any other class. Alfalfa hay production is estimated to be 4.86 million tons, a 1 percent increase from 2007. The expected yield for alfalfa is 4.30 tons per acre, up from last year's 4.00 tons per acre. Other hay production is expected to total 759,000 tons, up 20 percent from last year. Yield for other hay is estimated at 2.30 tons per acre, up from last year's 2.10 tons per acre. Idaho apple production is estimated at 55 million pounds, up 20 million pounds from 2007. If realized, this will be the second smallest apple crop in Idaho since 1972. Prune and plum production is expected to total 2,700 tons, up 50 percent from last year. Idaho hop producers are expected to harvest 3,945 acres with a yield of 1,630 pounds per acre and production of 6.43 million pounds in 2008. If realized this would be the largest hop production in Idaho since 1974.

For the United States, all wheat production is forecast at 2.46 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from the July forecast but up 19 percent from 2007. Based on August 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels above last year. Winter wheat production is expected to total 1.87 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month and 24 percent above 2007. The U. S. Yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 4.4 bushels from last year. Spring wheat production is forecast at 501 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month, but 5 percent above 2007. Durum wheat production is forecast at 86.6 million bushels, down 4 percent from the previous month, but 21 percent above 2007. Barley production is forecast at 218 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last month and 3 percent above 2007. Oat production is forecast at 89.9 million bushels, 3 percent below the July 1 forecast and 2 percent below last year's record low 91.6 million bushels. Dry bean production is forecast at 24.2 million cwt in 2008, down 5 percent from last year and down slightly from 2006. Sugarbeet production for 2008 is forecast at 25.3 million tons, down 21 percent from last year and 26 percent below 2006. Corn for grain is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year, but 17 percent above 2006. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 70.9 million tons, down 2 percent from last year. Other hay production is forecast at 77.0 million tons, down 1 percent from last year. Prune and plum production in Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 18,800 tons, up 55 percent from last year but 13 percent lower than 2006. Apple production is forecast at 9.17 billion pounds, slightly more than the 2007 crop but down 7 percent from 2006. Hop production in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 76.2 million pounds for 2008, up 27 percent from last year and 32 percent more than the 2006 crop.

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